

## About Alphabet Soup

The State of Indiana Intelenet Commission offers this glossary of abbreviations and acronyms to help you understand the somewhat arcane world of technology and telecommunications that sometimes comes to us in strings of letters we like to call “alphabet soup.”

Many of the terms below are used elsewhere on our Web site, in our printed materials, meetings, presentations and in general conversation. This collection is, by no means, a complete glossary of telecommunications or state government terms, and it does not include terms that are not abbreviated. The definitions given are largely related to the operational functions of the Intelenet Commission, and are in many cases not the complete or standard definitions that are applied more broadly.

If you do not find an abbreviation or acronym on this list, there are a number of excellent online sources you can try. Our favorites are [www.webopedia.com](http://www.webopedia.com) and [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com). An excellent printed reference is *Newton's Telecom Dictionary, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2001).

Meanwhile, get out your ladle and serve up a generous helping of alphabet soup!

<b>A l p h a b e t   S o u p</b> <b>A   G l o s s a r y   o f   T e r m s</b>		
<b>Abbreviation or Acronym</b>	<b>“Unpacked”</b>	<b>Definition and/or Description</b>
56K	56,000 bits per second transmission speed	A 64 Kbps circuit with 8 Kbps used for signaling. This is a standard digital circuit installed to provide data services to a subscriber.
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line	An evolving high-speed transmission technology originally developed by Bellcore and now standardized by ANSI. This technology uses existing copper phone wires from the telephone company central office to the subscriber's premises for the transmission of data at a very high rate of speed.
AI or <i>ai</i>	<i>accessIndiana</i>	Indiana government “gateway” or “portal” to the Internet; e.g., the state Web site, and the working name of the National Information Consortium subsidiary also known as Indiana Interactive.
AIC	Association of Indiana Counties	Represents the legislative interests of Indiana counties and the betterment of county government.
AIIN	Access Indiana Information Network	Former name of the state government gateway now called “ <i>accessIndiana</i> .”
AIMS	Automated Information Management System	Indiana Supreme Court report that details preliminary plans and specifications for court

		management systems to be used in Indiana.
AISB	Access Indiana State Backbone	Former name of the portion of the Indiana Telecommunications Network by which the Internet is accessible.
AISN	Access Indiana State Network	Former name of the Indiana Telecommunications Network.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute	A standards-setting, non-government organization founded in 1918. ANSI develops and publishes standards for transmission codes, protocols, and high-level languages for voluntary use in the United States.
ARPA	Advanced Research Projects Agency	Division of the United States Defense Department. Created ARPANET.
ARPANET	Advanced Research Projects Agency Network	A wide area network that served as a test bed for new networking technologies. Considered the forerunner to the Internet.
AT&T		One of Intelenet's Preferred Transport Providers.
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode	A high-speed, low-delay, connection-oriented communications technology. ATM accomplishes this fast transmission with little delay by segmenting digital information into small, fixed-sized cells. These cells allow for a constant size transmission being placed on the network. Asynchronous refers to the fact that each cell is presented to the network on a start-stop basis and each cell can travel a different path across the network and still arrive at its destination in a timely manner.
BEAR	Billing Entity Applicant's Reimbursement	Federal Communications Commission Forms 486 and 472 that must be filed with the Schools & Libraries Division to receive e-rate discounts from vendors that are discounting services.
BHOC	Bloomington Hospital of Orange County	Partners in the EPICS Project
BMV	Bureau of Motor Vehicles	The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is dedicated to providing professional and efficient service in the licensing of drivers, the registration and titling of vehicles, the collection and distribution of taxes and the management of the records related to these functions.

bps	Bits Per Second	The number of bits passing a specific point per second and is used to measure data transmission rates.
CAN	Campus Area Network	An environment in which users are spread out over a broad area as in universities, hospitals and governmental facilities. There may be several local area networks on a CAN.
CED	Cooperative Extension Director	Head of a county Cooperative Extension Service office.
CENTREX	Central Office Exchange Service	Public Branch Exchange (PBX) service in which switching occurs at a local telephone station instead of at the company premises.
CES	Cooperative Extension Service	Educational entity located in each county and administered by Purdue University; an authorized user of Intelenet's services and vehicle for county government connections to the Indiana Telecommunications Network when offices are colocated.
CIO	Chief Information Officer	Oversees information technology for the state.
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number	Used for billing purposes.
CHIP (Act)	Children's Internet Protection Act	See CIPA.
CIPA	Children's Internet Protection Act	Federal legislation that requires that schools and libraries comply with Internet filtering and related requirements before Universal Service discounts are granted. Also referred to as the CHIP Act.
Demarc	Demarcation Point	Point at which the local exchange carrier connects services to a building; a minimal point of entry into the facility. An extended demarc is the inside wiring provided by a building owner to connect the demarc to other areas of the building.
DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol	Allows a server to dynamically assign IP addresses to nodes. Also referred to as HCP.
DLCI	Data Link Connection Identifier	A frame-relay term that identifies the data link and its service parameters.
DNS	Domain Name System or Domain Name Service	An Internet service that translates domain names into IP addresses. Because domain names are alphabetic, they're easier to remember. The

		Internet however, is really based on IP addresses. Every time you use a domain name, therefore, a DNS service must translate the name into the corresponding IP address. For example, the domain name <a href="http://www.example.com">www.example.com</a> might translate to the IP address 198.105.232.4.
DoIT	Division of Information Technology	Division of the Indiana Department of Administration that serves state government agencies through application development, business consulting, communication services, data center services, education and training, and more.
DPOC	Data Processing Oversight Commission	Former name of the Indiana Technology Oversight Commission (ITOC), which develops information technology policies and operational strategies for the state.
DS-3	45 Mbps transmission speed	Equal to 28 T-1 connections. Transmission rate is 44.736 million bits per second. This circuit is capable of handling 672 standard voice conversations.
DSL	Digital Subscriber Lines	This is a generic name for a family of digital services to be provided by local telephone companies to their local subscribers. DSL can carry both voice and data signals at the same time. This is what is known as a “last mile” technology because this technology creates a fast digital link from the subscriber’s premise to the central office.
DSLAM	Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer	A new technology used to concentrate traffic at a telephone company’s central office using Time Division Multiplexing. This allows for a community of DSL lines to be brought to a single location, and then aggregated to a larger medium for access to the Internet or other destination.
EDARC	Enhanced Data Access Review Committee	Regulates the activities of the state portal and its managers, <i>accessIndiana</i> . On behalf of the Intelnet Commission, EDARC has the power to review, modify, approve and audit agency agreements; encourage the use of <i>accessIndiana</i> by public and private entities; and establish fees for enhanced access to public records. (IC 5-21-6)
EPICS	Emergency Preparedness: Integrated Community	Pilot project in Orange County that integrates planning and preparedness for emergencies of all

	Solutions	kinds and supports basic health care services.
ESC	Educational Service Centers	Support the teaching and learning environments of all school corporations in Indiana with vision and planning assistance, regional leadership resources, support services and research and development.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	As part of its varied mission it is working to bring all schools and libraries in the United States into the information age by providing Universal Service (or e-rate) discounts on Internet connectivity through the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company.
FCL	Funding Commitment Letter	Documents that indicate the specific levels of funding applied for and actually received by an agency/institution.
FOC	Firm Order Confirmation	A date by which a local exchange carrier commits to having a service installed.
FSSA	Family and Social Services	
FTP	File Transfer Protocol	The protocol used on the Internet for sending files.
GIS	Geographic Information System	Tools used to gather, transform, manipulate, analyze, and produce information related to the surface of the Earth. This data may exist as maps, 3D virtual models, tables, and/or lists.
GTE		Former name of Preferred Transport Provider now known as “Genuity” that carries the contract for Intelenet’s long-distance voice services.
HCP	Host Configuration Protocol	Short for “Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol”; see DHCP.
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol	The underlying protocol used on the World Wide Web that defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands. For example, when you enter a URL in your browser, this actually sends an HTTP command to the Web server directing it to fetch and transmit the requested Web page.
IACT	Indiana Association of Cities	Represents the legislative interests of Indiana

	and Towns	cities and towns and the betterment of municipal government.
IC	Indiana Code	IC 5–21 defines and establishes the Intelenet Commission, its general administration, the Intelenet System, sources of funds, loan contracts, bonds, authorized user contracts, and the Enhanced Data Access Review Committee.
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers	The non-profit corporation that was formed in 1998 to assume responsibility for IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, domain name system management, and root server system management functions.
ICNA	Indiana Community Network Association	Group of volunteers who monitor the activities and interests of community networks in Indiana.
ICPR	Indiana Commission on Public Records	
IDOA	Indiana Department of Administration	
IDOE	Indiana Department of Education	Partners with Intelenet for the Indiana Web Academy, school grant programs, and other projects.
IDOH	Indiana Department of Health	One of three state agency partners in the EPICS project, including SEMA and Intelenet.
IGCN	Indiana Government Center North	North building of the state office complex at Indianapolis.
IGCS	Indiana Government Center South	South building of the state office complex at Indianapolis.
IHETS	Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System	The partner organization with Intelenet that built, operates and manages the Indiana Telecommunications Network. IHETS performs such functions as troubleshooting, customer support, break/fix, and engineering.
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier	Local phone company that provides local exchange services as well as long-distance phone service and Internet access.
INDICO	Indiana Digital County Network	Former name of the IN-map project; INDICO's primary mission was to assist community networks.

IN.gov	Indiana Government	The official Web address (URL) of Indiana government as represented through state Web sites on <i>accessIndiana</i> ( <a href="http://www.IN.gov">www.IN.gov</a> ). Referring addresses include <a href="http://www.state.in.us">www.state.in.us</a> , <a href="http://www.ai.org">www.ai.org</a> , and <a href="http://www.accessIndiana.com">www.accessIndiana.com</a> . If it's not IN.gov, it's not official.
IN-map		Develops and hosts Web sites for Intelenet's authorized users, particularly local government entities.
IN-SPAN	Indiana State Public Access Network	Acting name of the Indiana Telecommunications Network for several months during 2000.
INTELENET	Indiana Telecommunications Network	Name of the commission and body corporate and politic that was derived from Indiana Telecommunications Network.
IP	Internet Protocol	Specifies the format of packets, also called datagrams, and the addressing scheme. Most networks combine IP with a higher-level protocol called Transport Control Protocol, which establishes a virtual connection between a destination and a source. IP by itself is something like the postal system. It allows you to address a package and drop it in the system, but there's no direct link between you and the recipient. TCP/IP, on the other hand, establishes a connection between two hosts so that they can send messages back and forth for a period of time.
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network	International communications standard for sending voice, video and data over digital telephone lines or normal telephone wires. ISDN supports data transfer rates of 64 Kbps. Most ISDN lines offered by telephone companies provide two lines at once, called B channels. One line can be used for voice and the other for data, or both can be used for data to provide data rates of 128 Kbps.
ISL	Indiana State Library	Partners with Intelenet for administration of grants and universal service to public libraries.
ISP	Indiana State Police	
ISP	Internet Service Provider	A company that provides access to the Internet.
ITFS	Instructional Television Fixed Service	Statewide analog video network managed by IHETS in the late 1980s.

IT	Information Technology	The broad subject concerned with all aspects of managing and processing information, especially within a large organization or company.
ITN	Indiana Telecommunications Network	State of Indiana public-sector access network comprising 10 nodes (access points) across the state. Formerly known as the Access Indiana State Backbone (AISB); the Access Indiana State Network (AISN); and briefly and informally as the Indiana State Public Access Network (IN-SPAN).
ITOC	Information Technology Oversight Commission	Formerly the Data Processing Oversight Commission (DPOC); ITOC develops information technology policies and operational strategies for the state.
IUPUI	Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis	University located in Indianapolis that is home to Internet 2.
IURC	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission	
IVR	Interactive Voice Response	A telephony technology in which someone uses a touch-tone telephone to interact with a database to acquire information from or enter data into the database or gather information.
IWA	Indiana Web Academy	Joint program of the Intelnet Commission and the Indiana Department of Education to empower students to use the Internet from school and home.
JTAC	Judicial Technology & Automation Committee	Established by the Indiana Supreme Court to develop uniform policy on implementation of information technology by the Indiana judicial system.
K-12	Refers to grade school, Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Intelnet administers state and federal grants for these schools' Internet connectivity.
Kbps	Kilobits per second	A data transfer speed measured in one thousand increments. For example, 56kbps or 56 thousand bits per second.
LAN	Local Area Network	A short distance data communications network used to link together computers and peripheral devices under a form of standard control. This connecting of computers housed within a given

		area (usually a building) allows for the sharing of common files, printers and applications.
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier	The local phone company that traditionally had exclusive rights and responsibilities to provide local transmission and switching services. Prior to divestiture, the LECs were called “telephone companies” or “TELCOs.”
LSA	Legislative Services Agency	
LSA	Leased Space Arrangement	AT&T provides space in its wire centers for IHETS to lease and collocate network node equipment.
MAN	Metropolitan Area Network	A MAN typically interconnects two or more buildings, which provide local area networks, together within the same metropolitan area.
Mbps	Megabits per second	A data transfer speed measured in one million increments. For example, 10mbps or 10 million bits per second.
MDF	Main Distribution Frame	A wiring arrangement which connects the telephone lines coming from outside on one side and the internal lines on the other.
MeGT	Millennium e-Government Team	A team comprised of <i>accessIndiana</i> and Department of Information Technology (DoIT) staff to streamline the delivery of e-Government services by focusing on the strengths and capabilities of each agency.
MIS	Management Information Services	Within companies and large organizations, the department responsible for computer systems is sometimes called the MIS department.
MRC	Monthly Recurring Charge	Charges that reoccur at the same rate on a monthly basis.
NIC	National Information Consortium	Parent company of Indiana Interactive, also known as <i>accessIndiana</i> .
NNI	Network-to-Network Interface	Connection between two public frame-relay services.
OC-1	Optical Carrier level-1	Used to specify the speed of fiber optic networks conforming to the SONET standard. Transmission rates of 51.840 Mbps.
OC-3	155.52 Mbps transmission	Bandwidth equivalent to three OC-1s.

	speed	
PBX	Private Branch Exchange	Telephone network used within an organization.
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant	Handheld device that combines computing, telephone and/or fax and networking features. A typical PDA can function as a cellular phone, fax sender and personal organizer. Some Web applications on <i>accessIndiana</i> can be performed on a PDA.
PDF	Portable Document Format	PDF captures formatting information from a variety of desktop publishing applications, making it possible to send formatted documents and have them appear on the recipient's monitor or printer as they were intended.
PIA	Performance Integrity Assurance	A term for the School and Libraries Division (SLD) that assures the integrity of an application.
PIO	Public Information Officer	Individual at a state agency responsible for public relations for that agency.
POP	Point of Presence	Point of presence at which the ITN exchanges traffic with preferred transport providers. Example, AT&T.
PTP	Preferred Transport Provider	Private vendor contracted to offer services to Intelnet's authorized users.
RFI	Request for Information	A state agency's solicitation for vendor input to assist in creating a request for proposal.
RFP	Request for Proposal	A state agency's bid for a project.
ROW	Right-of-Way	The strip of land over which networks are built; the state owns rights-of-way for all limited access highways (i.e., Interstates) in the state of Indiana.
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency	One of three state agency partners in the EPICS project, including IDOH and Intelnet.
SICHC	Southern Indiana Community Health Care Clinics	Partners in the EPICS Project in Orange County.
SIGN	State of Indiana Government Network	Sprint-managed network that services state agency customers that have not yet migrated to the Indiana Telecommunications Network (ITN).
SLD	School and Libraries Division	Appointed by the Universal Service

		Administrative Company to manage the Schools and Libraries Program, they administer the e-rate discount to eligible applicants.
SONET	Synchronous Optical Network	SONET is an optical interface standard. It defines the physical interface, optical line rate signals, frame format, and OAM&P protocol. This originated from the electrical equivalents known as Synchronous Transport Signals.
SPIN	Service Provider Identification Number	A unique identification number assigned by the Universal Service Administrative Company and needed for Universal Service Fund discount application forms (486 and 472) to ensure that monies are distributed properly.
SQL	Structured query language	Invented by IBM and first commercialized by Oracle. A powerful database language used for creating, maintaining, and viewing database data.
SUVON	State University Voice Network	Leased phone lines operated by IHETS.
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol	Enables two hosts to establish a connection and exchange streams of data, and guarantees delivery of data and that packets will be delivered in the same order in which they were sent.
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol	The suite of communications protocols used to connect hosts on the Internet. TCP/IP uses several protocols, the two main ones being TCP and IP. TCP/IP is built into the UNIX operating system and is used by the Internet, making it the <i>de facto</i> standard for transmitting data over networks.
T-1	Trunk Level 1	Dedicated connection that can carry voice, video and data traffic with the capacity of 1.544 Mbps. A T-1 uses two pairs of normal twisted wires. A T-1 can handle 24 voice conversations simultaneously. A T-1 is a standard for digital transmission in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and Japan.
UNI	User-to-Network Interface	The physical, electrical and functional demarcation point between the user and the public network service provider.
UNIX	Universal Interactive Executive	(AT&T Bell Laboratories Operating System) A popular multi-user, multitasking, operating system developed at Bell Labs in the early 1970s.

URL	Universal Resource Locator	An Internet term which means an address on the World Wide Web. A URL is a string of expressions that can represent any resource on the Internet or local TCP/IP system.
USAC	Universal Service Administrative Company	A private, not-for-profit corporation that is responsible for providing access to affordable telecommunications services through the administration of e-rate discounts to schools, libraries, rural health and other organizations through the Universal Service Fund.
USF	Universal Service Fund	Also known as the e-rate, the fund from which these federal discounts are drawn. The discounts are intended for Internet connectivity to bridge the “digital divide,” and are provided by the Federal Communications Commission through the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company. Intelnet files an annual consortium application on behalf of all K–12 schools for these discounts.
VPN	Virtual Private Network	A VPN is a software-defined network offering the appearance, functionality and usefulness of a dedicated private network that is transmitted across a public network. A VPN provides a level of security for data transmission across a Wide Area Network.
WAN	Wide Area Network	A common carrier-provided network used to connect LAN’s and MAN’s across an extended geographical area. In essence, cities to cities and state to state. This is a way to connect disperse sites together for information transmission.
WATS	Wide Area Telecommunication Service	Services through CENTREX that connect the state capital with other locations.
WIC	WAN Interface Card	Gives routers another Ethernet interface.